

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Project Transformation

Application ID: 14AC156834

Program Name: Project Transformation AmeriCorps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

#### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

##### Strengths:

The applicant provides appropriate statistics to support its premise that the target areas served by this program have high poverty rates and poor academic achievement. School district data shows that an average of 94% of the students qualify for free/reduced-price lunches and nearly 40% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received unsatisfactory ratings on the state reading test. Suitable comparison data is also provided to show the severity of the need compared to state averages.

The applicant provides strong support for the national need regarding literacy improvement for low-income children through summer programming.

The applicant's explanation of the need for afterschool and summer day camp programs in the service area is well described. Supporting documentation is provided from a variety of reputable sources. Solid comparison of local statistics to the studies referenced is persuasive.

The applicant provides a detailed and appropriate Logic Model with consistent Inputs and Outcomes for both school-year program and summer program. All outcomes include suitable measures for the age level being served (elementary, middle school, high school).

The Theory of Change as represented in the Logic Model is well aligned from inputs through long term outcomes. Both the afterschool and summer interventions planned are logical precursors to the outputs and outcomes.

The applicant describes a program that is suitable to address the Logic Model with performance outcomes appropriate for the school year and summer programs. Interventions are clear and align logically in relationship to the outcomes with appropriate measures in both after school and summer programs.

Suitable data is provided to demonstrate that the applicant has achieved their student goals in the past 3 years.

The applicant met or exceeded their goals for student enrollment, program completion, improved test scores and increased school engagement, thus reaching their goal of improving student achievement in the target area.

The applicant submits that during the past three years of program operation there has been improvement in academic performance and academic engagement. Program performance, including reading progress and grade improvement, is monitored monthly.

The applicant provides evidence of consistent, successful program implementation over the past three years in both academic performance and engagement.

Weaknesses:

There were no significant weaknesses found.